

But, stop! The core of England's glory and super-excellence lies deeper still! It lies even below the happy accidents of Sovereign and Constitution, and it will be found buried in that which you so wisely insist upon for your own welfare, viz.: in "the acceptance of the teachings of the Holy Bible as the rule of life and the mainspring of existence." This is the secret of England's greatness. England's Christianity, inwoven generally in the fabric of the Empire, has moulded both Queen and Constitution, and nerved, in every sense, the arm of England's weal. Hence her greatness. And as it is a principle with your Order—a principle overriding all others—to accept the teaching of the Holy Bible as the rule of your life and the mainstay of your existence, you may expect that the blessings showered upon England from above, because she is so eminently Christian, will also come down abundantly upon your Christian Order.

And for the enlargement of your hopes herein I would fain instance the bestowal upon your Order of a great blessing already—a blessing prior to, and greater than, even that of a prodigious enrolment of members—a blessing at least equal to, if not exceeding, any blessing of the kind ever given to any other secular Society, so far as I can judge; I mean the paramount blessing of a thoroughly sound Constitution. As with children, so also with Societies: a good constitution is essential in the highest degree to the development of the body; and I should think myself very remiss if I did not warmly congratulate your Order on the possession of a Constitution worthy of all commendation. The wisdom of its compilers manifests itself everywhere, grasping and providing for every contingency, and introducing on every hand elements of growth, good order, and prosperity. With such a well-drawn Constitution as yours, I see no reason why the